

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The sealing element according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 13, wherein ~~the coupling feature comprises a plurality of fitting ribs, and~~ among the plurality of fitting ribs, the fitting rib located closest to ~~the~~ an entrance ~~into side of a~~ the fit-holding portion ~~formed on the opening face of the fitted element or on the fitting element side are~~ is higher than those located ~~on~~ within an interior side section of ~~[[a]]~~ the fit-holding portion.
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~sealing element~~ hermetic container according to claim ~~12~~ 9, wherein ~~the coupling feature comprises a plurality of fitting ribs, and~~ among the plurality of fitting ribs, the fitting rib located closest to ~~the~~ an entrance ~~into side of a~~ the fit-holding portion ~~formed on the opening face of the fitted element or on the fitting element side are~~ is higher than those located ~~on~~ within ~~the~~ an interior side section of the fit-holding portion.
5. (Currently Amended) The sealing element according to claim ~~1~~ 13, wherein at least a length of the ~~first~~ protruding part is set curved inwardly in a direction of squeezing and towards the opening face of the storage container ~~front of the fitted element~~ so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the ~~fitted element~~ container main body or the contact surface of the door element ~~fitting element~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~sealing element~~ hermetic container according to claim 12 9, wherein at least a length of the ~~first~~ protruding part is set curved inwardly in a direction of squeezing and towards the opening face of the storage container ~~front of the fitted element~~ so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the ~~fitted element~~ container main body or the contact surface of the door element ~~fitting element~~.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended) A hermetic container comprising:  
    a sealing element which is interposed between an opening face and a door element of a storage container for precision substrates wherein the storage container comprises:  
        a container main body having ~~an~~ the opening face and supporting portions between which the precision substrates are put in alignment with each other;  
        [[a]] wherein the door element closes the opening face and a retainer resiliently supports rims of the precision substrates to be detachably fitted to the opening face of the container body, wherein the container body is of a front open box type container body; and  
        ———— an elastically deformably sealing element interposed between the opening face and the door element,  
        ———— characterized in that a fit-holding portion which is formed by notching either the a front inner periphery of the opening face of the container main body or the an outer periphery

peripheral side of the door element, and wherein the sealing element comprises:

an endless portion to be fitted into the fit-holding portion;

\_\_\_\_\_ a flexible protruding part projected from the endless  
portion, obliquely and outwardly, and

a plurality of fitting ribs formed on at least one side of the endless portion so as to have a press-contact within the fit-holding portion and projected higher by 1 to 25% than the width of the fit-holding portion;

whereby, when an open front of the container main body is closed by the door element, the flexible protruding part of the sealing element is flexed so that a curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with a contact surface of the container main body or a contact surface of the door element, thus the protruding part of the sealing element instead of being compressed in the direction of the attachment of the door element.

whereby, when the internal pressure of the container main body closed by the door element becomes higher than the external pressure, air is released from the interior of the container main body to the outside, while the internal pressure of the container main body closed by the door element becomes lower than the external pressure, the outside air is prevented from entering the container main body.

and having at least two surfaces, wherein a face of the sealing element seats flush against one wall that defines the fit holding portion; a flexible protruding part projected from the endless portion, obliquely and outwardly with respect to the opening face of the container body, forming a substantially acute angle

between itself and the contact surface of the door element or the contact surface of the opening face of the container body; and a coupling feature having a projection formed on at least one of a surface of the endless portion and fitted in contact with a compartmentalized inner wall of the fit holding portion, wherein the protruding part is formed in a tapered configuration which becomes gradually narrower from the proximal part toward the distal end.

10. (Original) The hermetic container according to claim 9, wherein the sealing element is formed using a fluororubber composition.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently Amended) The sealing element according to claim 13, wherein a vertical wall or projection having a vertical wall for positioning is formed on an opposite wall of the protruding element part.
13. (New) A sealing element which is interposed between an opening face and a door element of a storage container for precision substrates wherein the storage container comprises: a container main body having an opening at the opening face and supporting portions between which the precision substrates are put in alignment with each other, wherein the door element closes the opening and a retainer resiliently supports rims of the precision substrates; a fit-holding portion which is formed by notching either a front inner periphery of the opening face of the container main body or an outer peripheral side of the door element; wherein the sealing element comprises:

an endless portion to be fitted into the fit-holding portion;  
a flexible protruding part projected from the endless portion,  
obliquely and outwardly, and  
a plurality of fitting ribs formed on at least one side of the endless  
portion so as to have a press-contact within the fit-holding portion  
and projected higher by 1 to 25% than the width of the fit-holding  
portion,  
whereby, when an open front of the container main body is closed  
by the door element, the flexible protruding part of the sealing  
element is flexed so that a curved portion of the protruding part  
comes into contact with a contact surface of the container main  
body or a contact surface of the door element, thus the protruding  
part of the sealing element is merely bent in the direction of  
attachment of the door element instead of being compressed in  
the direction of the attachment of the door element,  
whereby when the internal pressure of the container main body  
closed by the door element becomes higher than the external  
pressure, air is released from the interior of the container main  
body to the outside, while the internal pressure of the container  
main body closed by the door element becomes lower than the  
external pressure, the outside air is prevented from entering the  
container main body.